

The exterior work described in this Capitol Renovation and Repair Bulletin represents only a very small portion of the total critical repair needs of the Idaho State Capitol Building.

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Masonry Preparation Work Underway on Capitol Exterior

Contractors from Hydro-Tech, Inc. will be working around the East and North Wings of the Capitol Building exterior during the next several weeks as they measure and identify condition of stonework and the need for repair and/or replacement.

The masonry restoration contractor is moving forward with joint replacement work that requires specialized mortar removal techniques to determine the soundness of the grout between the pieces of stone. Old mortar is removed and the joint is cleaned and prepared for the installation of new mortar. During this process the area must be covered and protected from inclement weather to prevent moisture from getting into the open joints. New mortar or grout will be installed in a procedure called "re-pointing". As the joints are cleaned the stones are carefully reviewed and necessary repairs are identified so that any replacement stones can be ordered in time for installation in the spring or summer.



Worker uses hand tool to remove mortar.



Hydro-Tech employees assess mortar repair work in the Northeast area well.

According to **Jan Frew**, Design and Construction Manager, Division of Public Works, in addition to the protective coverings, Statehouse occupants and visitors may also notice the use of vehicle lifts and scaffolding where these activities take place.

The contractor will have two or three separate crews working on various areas. As a result, equipment noise and fumes are likely as well as dust from grinding out the old mortar. Workers are sealing off building openings in the impacted areas and will do their best to keep activities as non-disruptive as possible.

The joint replacement work and sandstone assessment is the continuation of \$3 million in exterior restoration projects approved by the Legislature last Session. This work includes completion of the Capitol exterior stone renovation first begun two years ago. Extensive drainage repair around the perimeter of the building was

completed this past December. Further work under this contract will include skylight repairs and restoration work on the terra cotta dome.

Your Patience is Greatly Appreciated

Special Note: If you would like to receive this newsletter in PDF format (need PDF Reader on your PC) please send an email to **Diane Blume**: dblume@adm.idaho.gov If you have further questions or comments regarding the Capitol restoration effort, please contact Diane at 332-1826. If you have story suggestions or comments regarding **Renewal News**, please contact **Pat Wynn**, at 332-1827 or pwynn@adm.idaho.gov